In regards to the ARRL's request for rulemaking on re-farming the Novice Bands... I think it's a great idea! (and overdue!)
One can tune through the Novice CW bands now and VERY often hear NO stations at all (NONE, ZERO, ZIP!). That goes for 80, 40, 15 & 10m... It would seem that many newer hams are bypassing the 'time honored' Novice bands as a place to practice thier CW and increase speed since the lowering of CW speed requirements.